

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Alexander Melville Bell and Eliza Symonds Bell, May 5, 1877, with transcript

Letter written by Alexander Graham Bell to his Parents. Manchester, New Hampshire, May 5th, 1877. Dear Papa and Mama:

I forget whether I forwarded papers containing notices of Connecticut Dual Lecture or not. It was a great success as a Lecture but an enormous failure pecuniarily. The managers lost over three hundred dollars by it. Their own fault too — for the clap-trap way they advertised it.

My Newhaven and Hartford lecture is the last one that is to be given under Tom-Dick-and-Harry management. I have made arrangements with Mr. Frederick A. Gower, Editor of the Providence Press to travel with me here and in Europe — should we decide to go there.

The Boston Lecture of last night was the first one under the new regime and was a success pecuniarily and in every way.

I forward copy of Boston Papers of this morning.

On Monday we are to entertain two let-us-hope large audiences simultaneously one in Boston and the other in Providence, Rhode Island, and on Tuesday ditto — Boston and Manchester, New Hampshire. Next week I give a course of lectures in New York and Brooklyn while Mr. Gower skirmishes round about to the large towns within a radius of 50 miles from New York. A gentleman has called upon me who has been sent from San Francisco to induce me to lecture in California, this autumn.

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Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard have just come to Boston. President Gallaudet is now in treaty with me to become associated with the National College for Deaf-Mutes in Washington next year. I think of accepting. Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard are so well satisfied with my prospects that they have come to Boston to say that they will give their consent to my marrying now . In fact they urge me very strongly to marry at once and take Mabel with me on my lecture toure. They say that I will never be well and strong until I have some one to look after me.

I am very much better than I was and if everything goes off as I expect — I shall in the course of a month sell of everything I have here — make arrangements to reside in Washington — accept President Gallaudet's offer — spend the summer with Mabel in Canada and the New England States — the autumn in California and the west and the winter in Europe.

Your loving, Alec.